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America's All-Star

Leader of the Year: Mayor Henry Cisneros

Changing Economics Revives Recycling

Awards of Merit: The Winners Are...

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Conference Issue

AMERICAN CITY & COUNTY®

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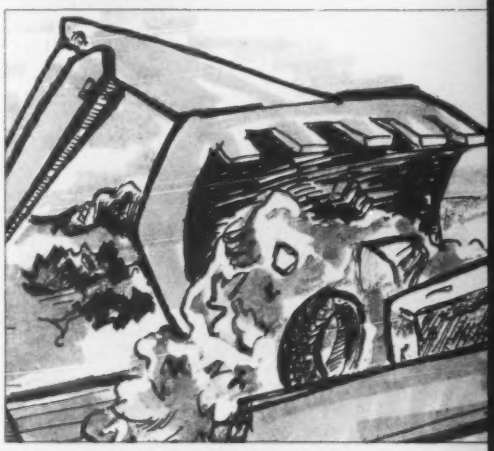

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Deficient Bridges Pose Long-Term Threat

With 200,000 bridges — 41 percent of the nation's inventory — rated structurally "deficient," the United States faces "a significant problem five or 10 years down the road," John Ahlskog, bridge-management chief of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), told a meeting of the American Consulting Engineers Council.

As bridges age and inspection costs increase slightly, Ahlskog said more funds will be needed to run bridge-rehabilitation programs. States will have to prioritize bridges for repair more effectively, and FHWA will have to identify the nation's short- and long-term bridge goals.

Nearly $5 billion is spent on bridge repairs annually, he said, including federal, state and local funds. The 1987 Surface Transportation and Uniform Relocation Assistance Act, passed by Congress earlier in the year, authorizes $8.1 billion for bridge rehabilitation in fiscal 1987 to 1991, or about $1.6 billion annually. "State and local governments must do their share," Ahlskog cautioned. "The federal government will not provide all the funds."

Denver Collins Jr., who chairs the American Road and Transportation Builders Association (ARTBA), told delegates to the International Bridge, Tunnel and Turnpike Association the United States should allow toll facilities to "play an increasingly larger role in financing."

ARTBA also is calling on Congress to "finance a beefed-up federal bridge program by drawing down on the $10.4-billion Highway Trust Fund balance by $2 billion per year for five years," Collins added.

Combining these funds with existing federal-aid allotments and matching funds from the states "could bring almost every U.S. bridge up to standard before the turn of the century," Collins said. He emphasized tolls were a significant solution to the bridge-maintenance problem.

City Managers Meet in Montreal

Osmond Bonsey, town manager of Yarmouth, Maine, was elected president of the International City Management Association (ICMA) when the group held its annual conference in Montreal. More than 3,000 delegates attended the conference.

Bonsey was appointed town manager in 1979 and previously served as executive director of the Greater Portland (Maine) Council of Governments. Elected to the ICMA Executive Board as regional vice presidents for two-year terms were: William Woollett Jr., city manager, Irvine, Calif.; Eric Anderson, city manager, Eau Claire, Wis.; Louis Fox, city manager, San Antonio, Texas; Thomas Downs, city administrator, Washington; Robert Noe Jr., county executive, Prince William County, Va.; John Gray, general manager and town clerk, Christchurch, New Zealand; and Peter Vargas, assistant city manager, Englewood, Colo.

The Montreal conference featured seminars on various aspects of government management, including privatization, emergency preparedness, personnel concerns, financing and infrastructure repair. Nearly 100 companies exhibited products and services in the Palais de Congress.

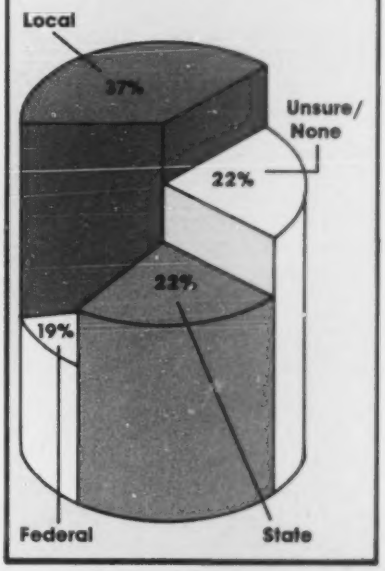
Several ICMA awards were presented at the conference. James Smith, city manager of Concord, N.H., received the Mark E. Keane Award for Excellence; Garden City, Ga., and former city manager Robert Schwartz, and Arcata, Calif., and City Manager Rory Robinson each won an Award for Program Excellence for communities with populations under 20,000; Redondo Beach, Calif., and City Manager Timothy Casey, Lawndale, Calif., and City Manager Paul Philips, Englewood, Colo., and City Manager Andrew McCown, and Littleton, Colo., and former city manager Gale Christy won Awards for Program Excellence for communities with populations of 20,000 or greater; Paul Steinbrenner, city manager of West Palm Beach, Fla., was honored with the L.P. Cookingham Career Development Award; and Lynn Anderson, dean emeritus of the Fels Institute of State and Local Government at the University of Pennsylvania, received the Stephen B. Sweeney Academic Award.

— Ken Anderberg

SURVEY SPOTLIGHT

Gaining the People's Trust

According to a survey for the Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations conducted by Gallup, people have more trust and confidence in local government than state or federal governments.



NORTHEAST

Satellites Help Plot Amherst Bicycle Path

Prompted by health-conscious citizens, many municipalities in the Northeast are converting railroad beds, horse trails along former barge canals and rural roads into bicycle paths. Following the success of a bike path constructed on Cape Cod, Massachusetts officials looked for other land to build similar recreational facilities. Two years ago, the state Department of Environmental Management purchased the right-of-way of the former Conrail railroad bed that winds through several communities in western Massachusetts.

A $4-million project will connect existing trails that start in Amherst, Mass., wind through Hadley and end 9 miles later in Northampton. Along the way, the path circumvents heavy traffic on Routes 9 and 116, and connects five area colleges.

The trail is surrounded by forests and crosses several bridges, and figuring exact bearings in such terrain is difficult and time-consuming. C.T. Male Associates, Latham, N.Y., an engineering and surveying consulting firm, used a technique relying on signals from satellites orbiting the Earth to pinpoint the exact location and length of the bike trail. Unfortunately for the crew from

MUNICIPAL COST INDEXES

Three of the four cost indexes saw slight increases over last month's figures, with both the **Municipal Cost Index** and the **Construction Cost Index** rising 0.2 percent. This month's Municipal Cost Index reading of 352.5 marks the 14th consecutive month the figure has risen. The **Consumer Price Index** showed the most increase from November, a 0.5-percent jump from 342.7 to 344.4, while the **Producer Price Index** showed no gain over last month.

Portland cement gained from last month's 346.6 to 346.9. Concrete products dropped slightly, while asphalt roofing jumped 0.7 percent. Gypsum products dropped 1.7 percent from November, from 308.6 to 303.5.

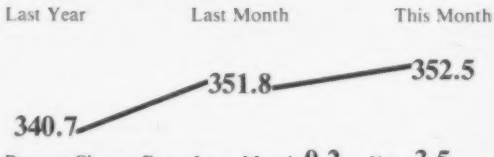
— Compiled by Tim Darnell

THIS MONTH'S MARKETBASKET

	Current Index	Percent Change From: Last Month	Last Year
Air Conditioners	150.4	0.2	0.8
Apparel	188.7	0.4	1.8
Asphalt Roofing	372.7	0.7	−3.1
Chemicals, Industrial	335.7	−0.1	5.9
Coal	512.8	−0.5	−4.6
Concrete Products	325.8	−0.2	0.3
Construction Machinery	375.8	0.1	2.4
Diesel Fuel	458.6	−3.4	27.1
Electric Components	202.1	−0.8	−0.4
Electric Lamps	352.9	−0.1	1.8
Electric Power	465.3	0	−0.3
Engines, I.C.	358.4	−0.3	2.0
Fans, Blowers	371.2	−0.1	1.5
Fertilizers, Mixed	263.0	2.2	5.4
Floor Coverings	200.6	0	2.1
Flow Instruments	240.5	−0.2	1.4
Footwear	271.9	0.6	3.7
Foundry Products	366.1	0.2	1.2
Fuel Oil No. 2	464.7	−6.0	18.0
Furniture	261.1	0.4	2.9
Gasoline	408.7	−4.8	20.7
Generator Sets	359.8	0.7	1.9
Glass	238.3	0	2.5
Glass Containers	401.3	−0.2	−0.2
Gypsum Products	303.5	−1.7	−11.0
Hardware	307.7	0.2	0.5
Heating Equipment	273.3	−0.4	1.6
HVAC Controls	131.3	0	0
LP Gas	387.7	4.6	31.0
Lubricants	343.7	−0.4	−4.0
Lumber	338.9	1.2	8.5
Metal Fabrications	323.4	0.6	2.3
Millwork	332.8	0.2	3.5
Motor Vehicle Parts	367.1	0	2.6
Mowers	267.0	−0.1	1.2
Natural Gas	1074.4	0.5	−0.4
Office Machines	159.7	0.4	3.2
Paint	329.4	−1.6	5.1
Paper	321.4	0.6	4.1
Passenger Cars	229.5	−2.2	4.2
Plumbing Fixtures	335.7	0.6	3.7
Plywood	249.1	4.4	5.6
Portland Cement	346.9	0.1	−1.3
Residual Fuel	646.6	−10.4	54.3
Sand, Gravel	329.9	0.1	3.4
Sanitary Papers	388.9	0.7	1.4
Soaps, Detergents	278.3	0.2	2.8
Sporting Goods	209.9	−0.2	1.3
Steel Mill Products	357.4	0.7	2.0
Struc. Clay Products	318.6	−0.3	2.8
Switchgear	292.1	0.5	2.3
Tires, Tubes	232.2	−0.1	−0.5
Transformers	240.6	0.2	2.6
Trucks	335.9	−2.6	0.2
Valves	108.9	0.9	1.6
Wire, Cable	221.4	1.7	7.5
Wiring Devices	385.9	−0.2	2.1

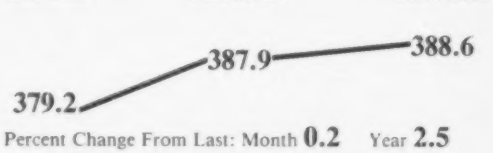
At-A-Glance Changes

MUNICIPAL COST INDEX



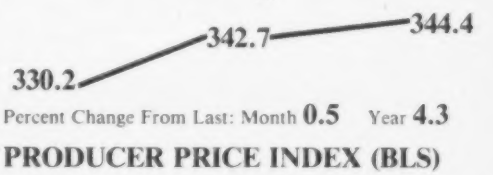
Percent Change From Last: Month **0.2** Year **3.5**

CONSTRUCTION COST INDEX



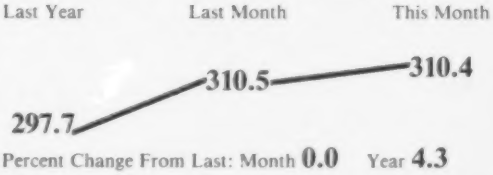
Percent Change From Last: Month **0.2** Year **2.5**

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (BLS)



Percent Change From Last: Month **0.5** Year **4.3**

PRODUCER PRICE INDEX (BLS)



Percent Change From Last: Month **0.0** Year **4.3**

These figures are calculated on a base year of 1967.

QUARTERLY MUNICIPAL TRENDS

	Current Level	Percent Change From: Last Qtr.	Last Year
Receipts	634.8B	.9	7.8
Federal Grants	104.1B	6.6	−10.9
Durable Purchases	23.6B	3.1	9.8
Consumables	37.6B	2.7	−6.0
Services	387.4B	2.3	8.0
Structures	64.6B	−2.7	16.2
Salaries, Wages	309.8B	2.3	6.0
Surplus	59.4B	−7.7	1.0
Employment	13.999M	−.4	2.7